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wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a solution of purified α -interferon.

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- 6. (Twice Amended) The method according to any cf claims 5, wherein the α -interferon solution before virus filtration, has an activity in the range of 3 to 50 mill. IU/ml.
- 13. (Amended) An α -interferon composition, comprising a non-ionic detergent as a stabilizer in an amount exceeding the critical micellar concentration of the detergent and being essentially free from substances and agents retained on a virus-filter having a high virus retentive capacity even for small non-enveloped viruses.
- 15. (Twice Amended) The composition according to claim 13, comprising an α -interferon solution containing at least two α -interferon subtypes selected from the group consisting of α 1, α 2, α 4, α 7, α 8, α 10, α 14, α 17 and α 21.

Please add the following new claims:

recovered filtrate contains said non-ionic detergent.



--17. (New) A method of removing and/or inactivating intact or non-intact bacteria, viral material, or prions from a

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pharmaceutical composition of a biologically active interferon protein comprising:

- (1) adding to a solution of the interferon protein a nonionic detergent;
- (2) subjecting the solution containing the non-ionic detergent to filtration on a virus removal filter with a pore size of 10 to 40 nm; and
- (3) recovering the filtrate.--

--18. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein non-enveloped viruses, and/or prions are removed and/or inactivated.